

April 15, 2009

Amherst Select Board
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Member of the Amherst Select Board:

I am writing to request a letter of support for the Pioneer Valley's (Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties) competitive grant proposal for five million dollars from the new Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program. As I am sure you know, five of our 69 cities and towns received formula grants directly from the federal government because they have populations over 35,000. The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) will be determining how to allocate the formula funds to our remaining 61 cities and towns.

Because our region is a leader in collaborative action to speed the transition to a clean, safe, sustainable energy future, we are competing with regions across the country for a significant portion of the \$45 million competitive funds available.

Thanks to your support back in 2005, we developed the first regional clean energy/energy efficiency plan in the country, the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan <http://www.pvpc.org/activities/Landuse/landuse-cleanenergy.shtml> and as a result, we are extremely well situated to compete for these funds.

As you can see from the attached proposal, we plan to use federal EECBG funds to complement the amazing amount of work already under way in our region to reduce energy use and create green jobs. Specifically we are requesting funds to:

- Assure an ongoing demand for energy efficiency and conservation in our 69 cities and towns and their homes, institutions and businesses through a coordinated and comprehensive public information and outreach campaign including a web portal and other traditional and non-traditional means of reaching the public
- Supplement the funding available for energy auditing/coaching— focusing on residential improvements and small commercial and not for profit businesses, as they are left out of utility audits
- Funding to Regional Planning Agencies to develop and help municipalities adopt new regulations to achieve energy efficiency in buildings and their transportation networks
- Create revolving loan funds to pay for the improvements identified in the audits, thereby creating good new green jobs
- Develop a Pilot projects/Community ownership Feasibility, Research, and Development center to explore innovative ideas not currently eligible for funding including small

hydro, district heat, community ownership of generation and energy service companies, and a contractor's cooperative (for insurance etc)

We would be happy to meet with you to go over our proposal ideas if you are interested. Our goal is to have our proposal ready for submission by May 1.

Thank you in advance for your support of our efforts to reduce energy use in the Pioneer Valley and to create good green jobs. If you or your staff has any questions, please do call me or email me at 413/781-6045, cmiller@pvpc.org.

On behalf of the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Collaborative, I am sincerely yours,

Catherine Miller, Principal Planner-Sustainability
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Members of the PVREC

Nancy Abdalla, Nuestras Raices
Melissa Adams, Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) --staff
Lynn Benander, Co-op Power
Natalie Blais, Congressman Olver
Gordon Boyce, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Dwayne Breger, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)
Marybeth Campbell, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC)
David Cash, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Stephanie Ciccarello, Town of Amherst
Tina Clarke, Sustainability Institute
Laura Dubester, Center for Ecological Technology (CET)
Jonathan Edwards, SmartPower
Wayne Feiden, City of Northampton
Andrew Glace, Long Island Energy Partners
Nancy Hazard, Greening Greenfield
Karen Jones, Pioneer Valley Electric Automobile Association (PVEAA)
Teresa Jones, Greenfield Community College
Peggy MacLeod, CET
Chris Mason, Energy/Sustainability Officer-City of Northampton
Catherine Miller, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission --staff
Nancy Nysten, CET
Karen Ribeiro, EnerG Save
Robert Rizzo, DOER
Tom Rossmassler, HAP Inc.
Peggy Sloan, FRCOG
Stan Swiercz, Volunteer
Sandy Thomas, WGBY Public Television
Loren Walker, University of Massachusetts Amherst
John Walsh, Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO)
Dano Weisbord, Smith College Sustainability Director

Town of



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April 27, 2009

Mark Bailey, Team Leader
State and Local Programs
Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
United States Department of Energy, EE-2K
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20585-0121

Dear Mr. Bailey:

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) proposal made by the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Collaborative to reduce energy use and create green jobs in the Pioneer Valley. Please fund this proposal.

The Pioneer Valley region of western Massachusetts is extremely well organized with respect to clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency activity. We have academics, government workers, community development organizations, entrepreneurs, elected officials, unions, citizen activists, environmentalists, business owners and many concerned citizens working together to reduce our energy use, generate clean energy, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and create good green jobs. From 2006 to 2008 a diverse group of organizations and individuals, the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Collaborative facilitated creation of the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan—the first of its kind in the nation, detailing a specific path our region could take to achieve a clean, safe, sustainable energy future:

Goal One: Reduce our region's energy consumption to 2000 levels by the end of 2009 and reduce that by 15 percent between 2010-2020.

Goal Two: Site sufficient new capacity to generate 214 million kilowatt hours of clean energy annually in the Pioneer Valley by the end of 2009 and another 440 million kilowatt hours per year by 2020.

Goal Three: Reduce our region's greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent below year 2000 levels by 2050.

Goal Four: Create local jobs in the clean energy sector.



Since they launched the plan, members of the Collaborative have been working independently and together to implement the plan's goals. While our region is making slow and steady progress, your support of this EECBG proposal will significantly advance our efforts.

Specifically our region needs your financial assistance to:

- Assure an ongoing demand for energy efficiency and conservation in our 69 cities and towns and their homes, institutions and businesses through a coordinated and comprehensive public information and outreach campaign including a web portal and other traditional and non-traditional means of reaching the public
- Supplement the funding available for energy auditing/coaching— focusing on residential improvements and small commercial and not for profit businesses, as they are left out of utility audits
- Fund our Regional Planning Agencies to develop and help municipalities adopt new regulations to achieve energy efficiency in buildings and transportation networks
- Create revolving loan funds to pay for the improvements identified in the audits, thereby creating good new green jobs
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Why should you fund the EECBG proposal from the Pioneer Valley?

- Because we already have a plan and a diverse collaborative that is organizing activities to achieve your goals of job creation, energy saved, renewable energy capacity expanded, greenhouse gas emissions reduced and funds leveraged, and because we can serve as a model for regional collaboration for other parts of the country.

We appreciate your consideration to fund this proposal.

Respectfully,
The Amherst Select Board

Stephanie O'Keefe, Chair

Gerald Weiss

Diana Stein

Alisa Brewer

Aaron Hayden

cc: Catherine Miller, PVPC
Laurence Shaffer, Amherst Town Manager